



DATE: January 7, 2015

TO: CCSWG Commissioners

FROM: Commissioner Alisha Wilkins  
Commissioner Karen Nelson

RE: State Advisory Committee on Sexual Assault Victim Services

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State funding for Rape Crisis Centers began in 1978 with the establishment of a grant program at the California Department of Social Services. In 1980, Penal Code 13836 transferred administrative responsibility for the Rape Crisis Program to OCJP and established the SAC. Legislative amendments in 1983 and 1985 added the Child Sexual Abuse and the Child Sexual Exploitation and Intervention Programs to P.C. 13836. At the time of its establishment in 1980, the SAC was under the purview of the Governor's Office of Criminal Justice Planning (OCJP). Effective January 1, 2004, OCJP programs and other statutory responsibilities were transferred to OES. Effective January 1, 2009, the agency became the California Emergency Management. Effective January 1, 2013, oversight responsibilities were again transferred to OES.

The SAC is authorized to advise OES on program development and implementation, to develop criteria for awarding grant funds, to assist in the development of a course of training for prosecutors who investigate and prosecute sexual assault cases, and to approve grant funds awarded to the three programs for which it has oversight responsibilities (Rape Crisis, Child Sexual Abuse, and Child Exploitation/Intervention). The SAC goals include: legislative advocacy and development; provision of optimal medical and forensic evaluation and treatment of all child and adult victims of sexual abuse and assault; victim restitution advocacy; increased training for professionals who work with victims and survivors; monitoring, evaluation and recommendation of public policy as it relates to sexual assault, child sexual abuse, and child sexual exploitation.

Per Penal Code 13836.1, the SAC is composed of 11 members.

- Five (5) are appointed by OES; the discipline of these 5 are specified in statute as follows: 3 district attorneys or assistant/deputy district attorneys; 1 police department or a sheriff's department representative; and 1 public defender/assistant/deputy public defender representative.

- Six (6) are appointed by the California Commission on the Status of Women; the disciplines of these six are:  
  
1 medical professional experienced in dealing with sexual assault victims; 1 rape crisis center representative; and 4 representatives whose disciplines are not specified.

Currently the Commission has two vacancies to fill on the Committee. We have identified candidates to fill the open positions and we are also interviewing the current CCSWG appointees who have been serving more than three years as to their desire to continue. The Committee is also reviewing its by-laws and may make changes that would require us to review the qualifications of our appointees in the future.

At this time we would like to recommend that the Commission approve the appointment of Sandra Henriquez, Executive Director of CALCASA and Candy Stallings to fill the vacancies.

Their Bios are below:

Sandra Henriquez has more than two decades of experience working in social services, of which 16 years were in non-profit management. She had demonstrated profound leadership as the former Associate Director for Intervention Programs at the Los Angeles Commission on Assaults Against Women (now Peace Over Violence). She also served on CALCASA's board of directors for more than a decade. Her participation on the board was essential to the Coalition's reorganization, hiring of staff, and the development in policies and procedures.

Candy Stallings has worked for San Bernardino County Sexual Assault Services for over 27 years, and has served as the Executive Director for 26 years. Candy is a Certified Rape Crisis Counselor; and has been a strong victim advocate for 29 years.

Candy works diligently for victims of sexual violence; she is active on the State and Federal level, as well as locally. She has served as a Council and Board member for California Coalition against Sexual Assault (CALCASA); an appointed member of the State Advisory Committee (SAC), Sexual Assault Response Team (SART); A Representative for the California Southern Region Rape Crisis Centers. Candy is a Commissioner for Juvenile Justice Probation Department for San Bernardino County.

Candy has been instrumental in starting programs with Fort Irwin Military Base, Local Law Enforcement Offices, and all the San Bernardino School Districts. Collaboration is key to providing the Best Services for victims.

Candy has extensive experience in the non-profit field and has received various awards for her achievements and service to the community. Candy has been instrumental in opening up seven satellite offices for victims of sexual violence in the San Bernardino, Riverside area and Fresno Area.

Ms. Stallings has been a non-voting member of SAC for the last four years.